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currently

11. ~~(amended)~~ In a computer network including a host computer, a print server and at least one image-forming device ~~wherein that utilizes a marking material is used for creating to create~~ images on a print media, a method for calculating the an amount of the marking material ~~required to print~~

5 for a print job submitted by a user, the method comprising the steps of:

converting a the print job to a universal ~~file~~ format file;

transmitting a the universal file format file to a print server;

~~copying~~ copying the universal file format file to generate a copied file;

and

10 as a first task:

converting the universal file format file to a page description language (PDL) file;

processing the ~~print job~~ PDL file including at least selecting an image-forming device for the print job; and

15 transmitting the ~~print job~~ PDL file to the selected image-forming device to print the print job; and

as a second task, separate from the first task ~~utilizing the copy of the universal file format file:~~

20 converting the copied file of the universal ~~file~~ format file to raster data;

counting the number of image elements corresponding to the print job contained in the ~~print job~~ raster data; and

25 calculating the amount of the marking material ~~required to print for the print job using based on~~ a predetermined amount of marking material for printing an individual image element.

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12. ^{currently}
(amended) The method of Claim 11 wherein the first and second tasks are performed by the print server in parallel.

13. ^{currently}
(amended) The method of Claim 11 wherein the second task is performed by the print server in ~~the~~ a background process of the print server background.

14. ^{currently}
(amended) The method of Claim 11 wherein the at least one image-forming device is a laser printer, and wherein the marking material comprises toner for use in ~~a~~ the laser printer.

15. ^{currently}
(amended) The method of Claim 11 wherein the at least one image-forming device is an ink jet printer, and wherein the marking material comprises ink for use in ~~an~~ the ink jet printer.

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16-20. canceled